

## California and Western Medicine

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Telephone Douglas 0062

Address editorial communications to Dr. George H. Kress as per above address; advertising and business communications to the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Frederick C. Warnshuis, also at the above address.

EDITOR . . . . . GEORGE H. KRESS

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## EDITORIALS\*

### A CALL TO ARMS—THE NATUROPATHIC AND CHIROPRACTIC INITIATIVES

*Why This Caption?*—Sensational captions have no great appeal to us, when noted in a medical publication. However, as was stated in one of the old McGuffey primers of our school days, "Circumstances alter cases."

Certainly, in so far as the five thousand members of the California Medical Association are concerned, the remaining days of this month of October of the year 1934, and the first six days of the month of November, will represent only a brief time period of less than thirty days after this issue of CALIFORNIA and WESTERN MEDICINE reaches its readers; but a short period in which what is done, or is not done, by these five thousand California Medical Association members will be fraught with most serious consequences to their own future, as well as that of those graduates in scientific medicine who will follow on in their places, in the years to come.

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*Did You Read the September Articles?*—As noted on page 194 of the September issue of your

\* Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comments column, which follows.

Journal, the Naturopathic Group will have an initiative on the November 6 State Election ballot.

And as printed in black face type, on page 209 of the same issue, the Supreme Court of California handed down a decision on September 5, whereby the Chiropractic Initiative will also be on the ballot. In other words, two cultist initiatives will be up for consideration and decision on November 6th.

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*Deplorable Standards of Cultists.*—In these pages, we do not desire to go into detailed discussion of the many provisions in each of these initiatives, to which legitimate exception could be taken; but it may be said that, to supporters of scientific healing art practice each of the above two groups has deplorable standards, when viewed from the standpoint of present-day civilization and of scientific knowledge.

When, for instance, the proposed Naturopathic Initiative is read, its far reaching scope must be at once evident.

For here comes an organization, akin somewhat to an ordinary medical society (and of far lesser age and of vastly less prestige than many), and it has the temerity to go before the citizens of California to request that it be endowed in *perpetuity* (a fifty or a ninety-nine year lease proposition is not sufficient, apparently, for these drugless healers, they must have it established for endless time!) to carry on the licensure of its disciples, and that absolutely without let or hindrance from the great State of California!

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*Who and What Is the "Naturopathic Association of California"?*—They propose to license all members of a certain "Naturopathic Association of California." How many members has that association today? How many members did it have one, two, five, ten years ago? Will it have more or less than its present number, in case the initiative is voted upon favorably by the electorate? Could new members be entered upon the membership rolls between November 6 and the date, sixty days or so later, on which the law would become effective? How many of these naturopaths possess an honest four year high school education? How many possess a mere reading, writing, arithmetic, preliminary education? What were the professional courses which these persons faithfully studied, in *actual attendance*? How many possess preliminary liberal arts education and four years' rigid healing art training? Why should persons with only the three R's education, and one or two problematical, so-called professional courses (perhaps in certain cases, *in absentia*), be permitted to receive legal recognition, equal in all respects to that which California grants or gives, only after meticulous examination, to Americans who have had, among other things, the following:

a full high school education;  
two years of liberal arts education;  
four years of stringent professional training;  
and often

one or two years of clinical experience, in a modern day scientific hospital?